

## Notes and Quotes

An article in *Journal of Psychology and Theology* (Summer 2006) notes how the PC and the Internet have changed our lives, offering a variety of information at the click of a mouse. This includes sexually explicit materials that tend to be viewed in secret (especially by men), often accompanied by masturbation, and potentially leading to pornographic addiction.

The *JPT* article described research with men in both Christian and non-religious colleges.

About one third reported that “it has been difficult for me to surf the Internet without the urge to seek out cyberporn locations.”

To the surprise of the researchers, **religious commitment and high scores on a spiritual well-being scale did not appear to prevent involvement with online sexual materials. Instead, there was a significant positive correlation between spiritual religious beliefs and interaction with cyberporn; men with high belief scores also had high cyberporn involvement scores.**

The researchers speculate that “males who have stronger spiritual beliefs are more likely to engage in solitary cyberporn activity because they view such behavior as...less objectionable than premarital sexual activity with a partner.”

**Matt 5.27-30** - “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell

Lust produces bad sex, because it denies relationship. Lust turns the other person into an object, a thing, a nonperson. Jesus condemned lust because it cheapened sex, it made sex less than it was created to be. For Jesus, sex was too good, too high, too holy, to be thrown away by cheap thoughts. Richard Foster

**Gal. 5.16ff.** - So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. <sup>17</sup> For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

One Christian writer comments / warns us that - the more common way men get into trouble evolves from **hundreds of tiny decisions—decisions that go undetected**—that slowly, like water tapping on a rock, wear down a man's character. Not blatantly or precipitously, but subtly, over time, we get caught in a web of cutting corners and compromise, self-deceit and wrong thinking, which goes unchallenged by anyone in our lives... - Pat Morely